COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Navy Combs Fleet for 6,000 To Man USS New Jersey

In a move to get experienced enlisted men to man the battleship USS New Jersey and the new destroyer tender USS Puget Sound, Navy is pulling more than 6,000 men from Atlantic and Pacific ships.

The transfers will involve more than 3,700 petty officers and 2,500 other enlisted men—about one percent of the enlisted men in the Navy. Some will be used to meet "additional personnel requirements" in Southeast Asia.

Hardest hit will be the Atlantic Fleet, where it is expected that 33 ships will lose men. In the Pacific, only six ships will be affected—two amphibious ships will be inactivated earlier than planned, and two more will reduce manning levels along with two repair ships.

Five patrol craft used to train reservists on the Great Lakes will also be laid up.

Atlantic ships facing reduced manning levels are five repair ships and five Naval Reserve destroyers. The repair ships will lose mostly deck and navigation personnel.

This will reduce their mobility, Navy officials say, but they add that the ships will be able to maintain full ship repair capabilities.

Twenty-four other Atlantic ships, including four amphibious types, one destroyer tender and 19 ships of destroyer size and smaller will be reduced to caretaker status. In addition, four submarines will be deactivated three or four months early.

Officials said the Atlantic and Pacific fleets' operation requirements will not be "adversely affected" by the reduced manning levels. They also predict a return to current manning levels within a year by accelerated enlisted training in key specialties.

Lt. Gen. Lewis Walt Named Assistant Marine Commandant

Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, who served two years as Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam, will become Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Jan. 1.

He will replace Lt. Gen. Leonard Chapman Jr., who was picked to relieve Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., as Commandant Marine Corps.

Gen. Walt returned from Vietnam in June 1967 and was Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and the Director of Personnel at Marine Corps Headquarters.

CANADIAN VISITOR—Brigadier W. A. Milroy (left), Commandant of the Canadian Army Staff College, Kingston, Ontario, is welcomed to Ft. Lee, Va., by Maj. Gen. Victor J. MacLaughlin, Commanding General, U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and Ft. Lee. Brigadier Milroy and about 100 student Canadian officers visited Ft. Lee for orientation on the Army logistics function.

First Class of Inf. NCO Candidates Completes Course's Academic Phase

The first class of infantry NCO candidates has been graduated from the 12-week academic phase of the course which is designed to supply more combat leaders in the army.

After the first phase at Ft. Benning, Ga., the candidates receive nine weeks on-the-job training in Vietnam-oriented Advanced Individual Training companies at Ft. Gordon, Ga.; Ft. Jackson, S. C.; Ft. McClellan, Ala., and Ft. Polk, La. At these points they train for squad leaders and assistant platoon sergeants.

All candidates entering the course are promoted to E-4. After completing the academic phase they are promoted to E-5. Five percent of the academic phase graduates who demonstrate exceptional tactical skill, poise, confidence, maturity and leadership may be promoted to E-6. An additional five percent whose performance is outstanding during OJT may be promoted to E-6.

The 41 classes scheduled at Ft. Benning this fiscal year are expected to graduate 8,200 new leaders by June, 1968.

An armor-oriented NCO Candidate Course was scheduled to begin this month at Ft. Knox, Ky. An artillery course also is planned at Ft. Sill, Okla.

Washington Memos

NAVY SAYS REPAIR work on aircraft carrier USS Forrestal, which was damaged by fire and exploding ordnance July 29 while on combat patrol in the Tonkin Gulf, will be completed by March 17, 1968 at a cost of $15 million.

GEN. WALLACE M. GREENE Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, received the Distinguished Service Medal from President Johnson Dec 13. Gen. Greene was recognized for "exceptionally meritorious service" during his tenure as Commandant. This was Gen. Greene's second DSM.

MAC CREWS HAVE flown their last cargo mission in C-135, first jet transport used in Military Airlift Command. Aircraft were assigned to 40th Military Airlift Sq., McGuire AFB, N.J., MAC's only C-135 squadron since early 1966. Air Force Systems Command is receiving eight aircraft and remaining two will be assigned to 89th Military Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, Md.

THIRD TACTICAL FIGHTER Wing, Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, has completed second year of combat operations. It is oldest wing on continuous active duty in Air Force, formed in 1919 at Kelly Field, Tex. Flying F-100 and A-37 aircraft in Vietnam, pilots of 48-year-old wing have flown more than 62,000 close air support sorties.

NAVY FINANCE CENTER is testing an Optical Mark Page Reader to learn if it can take over punching some of 4.7 million computer cards used annually by center. When connected to Card Punch machine, Page Reader can read ordinary pencil marks, convert them and punch them into 80-column cards at rate of 68,000 key strokes per hour. This is equal to production of eight or nine card punch operators.

ARMY AVIATION Materiel Command has awarded $11.99 million contract to Bell Helicopter Co., Ft. Worth, Tex., for production and delivery of rotary wings and rudder blades in support of Army's UH-1 Iroquois helicopter program.

THE PROPOSED VSX anti-submarine aircraft now under study is expected to replace Grumman S-2 Tracker now used by ASW aircraft carriers. Navy officials say it will have latest avionic systems and its capability will be "greatly enhanced" by wide range of sensors and weapons.

AT ITS 12TH national convention next April 3-5, Air Force Association will honor 22 outstanding airmen representing each major command and separate operating agency. Airmen will be selected for outstanding achievement or performance of duty during past 12 months. Convention will be held in Atlanta.

MILK IS NOW on its way to troops in Army Support Command at Cam Ranh Bay, South Vietnam. It is produced by combining refined water, vegetable fats and powdered milk. New plant can produce 50,000 gallons of milk, and 10,000 gallons of ice cream a day—in 12 flavors.

AIR UNIVERSITY'S EXTENSION Course has passed 2 million alumni mark. School, founded in 1950, is largest educational facility in Air Force. It offers 254 correspondence courses on general military subjects and more than 40 in career fields. University is at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

NAVY SUPPLY CORPS Capt. James B. Ericson has assumed command of Military Oecan Terminal, Bayonne, N.J., largest ocean terminal under command of Army's Eastern Area Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service.

BROOKS AFB, TEX., home of Aerospace Medical Division and School of Aerospace Medicine, observed its 50th birthday, Dec. 5. Base is named after Sidney J. Brooks Jr., local youth who was killed on his final solo flight before commissioning.

RECORD LEAFLET DROP has been established in Vietnam. Air Force AC-47 Skytrains from A Flight, 9th Air Commando Sq., DaNang, recently dropped 11,235,000 leaflets in one day for record that also stands for 14th Air Commando Wing.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS proclaimed Dec. 17 as Wright Brothers Day 1967. It marks 64th anniversary of powered flight. President noted that epic flight of Wright brothers—in plane they designed, built, and flew themselves—lasted less than minute. Proclamation states that Wright brothers' inventive genius revolutionized transportation and gave rise to great new industries that have strengthened America's defense and economy.

TACTICAL AIR COMMAND'S newest reconnaissance wing, the 75th, now has its first squadron in action over North Vietnam. 14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron flew its RF-4C Phantom II jets from Bergstrom AFB, Tex., to Udorn Royal Thai AFB in late November.

NEW AND SIGNIFICANT findings concerning nature of Moon and its environment have been obtained from Explorer XV Satellite orbiting Moon since last July. Satellite is making extended detailed scientific observations in near-Moon region.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE is offering sets of 12 full color reproductions of photographs of ships and aircraft depicting "beauty and might" of Navy. They may be ordered from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 at $2.50 a set.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Background for Commanders

CUBA'S THREAT TO PEACE*

Actions and policies of the present government of Cuba deserve condemnation and denunciation as flagrant violations of international treaties, of the principles of international law and the standards of conduct among nations. This is a matter which is of concern not only to the Organization of American States but to the United Nations.

We should also make clear to those governments actively supporting the present government of Cuba our concern at their policy. . . . If they are interested in relaxing tensions or more normal relations, we may ask why they finance a government publicly committed to our destruction. **It would be difficult to imagine that Castro could continue his efforts without the economic support he receives from countries of the Communist world, which is currently estimated at approximately $1 million a day.**

Cooperation From Free-World Friends

We can also seek greater cooperation from our free-world friends in denying to Cuba resources which help it to carry out its subversive activities. In 1964 we appealed to friendly non-member countries to cooperate in the policy of the OAS, but there is still a substantial flow of free-world trade which helps Castro to release resources to finance subversive activity in Latin America.

We ask our friends abroad to consider whether such assistance to the Cuban government is in their interest and consistent with the close and friendly relationships which ought to bind us to each other. We are not trying to impose our will on the internal affairs of a small country. The Castro regime, as we determined at Punta del Este in 1962, is repugnant to and incompatible with the inter-American system.

Cuba's Policy of Subversion

It has imposed on the Cuban people a police state that tolerates no dissent, that permits no freedom, and whose witnesses are the "*paredón*," the jails, and the hundreds of thousands of citizens who have fled and continue to flee their motherland. **Nevertheless, the reason for our policy of isolating Cuba under its present government is not its internal system but Castro's policies of promoting and assisting subversion and terrorism in the other countries of the hemisphere and of maintaining military arrangements with an extracontinental power—arrangements which at one time brought the world to the point of its highest crisis.** Until Castro desists from these policies, the OAS must maintain measures that isolate Cuba from the society of free men.

And there is more we can and should do individually and jointly to strengthen our own defenses and to take practical steps to implement measures which have been recommended to us by competent OAS bodies. We can and should intensify our vigilance along our coasts and frontiers. **We can and should intensify the cooperative efforts and arrangements among neighboring countries and especially among those countries most directly affected by the Castro Communist threat.**

The Peaceful Revolution

Let us also pause to look at the larger perspective. Hemispheric security is fundamental and requires constant vigilance, but it is only a small part of our overall effort. Let us keep in mind that the nations of Latin America are utilizing only 1½ percent of their total resources for matters of defense, with the remaining 98½ percent being invested in economic and social development and human welfare. While we take serious note of security threats, while we condemn the neighborhood delinquents who are responsible for these threats, we cannot permit this handful of peddlers of violence to distract us from our major task in this hemisphere.

Our number-one purpose remains the realization of peaceful revolution through the Alliance for Progress. We seek not to destroy but through "a vast effort to bring a better life to all the people of the Continent."

If the first six years of the Alliance have not seen adequate solutions to many of the problems that still beset us, we now know that this is a good beginning. The Presidents of America in Punta del Este this year gave us new directions and new stimulation. Our intensified dedication, our best talents, will be required. We know the way will not be quick nor easy; as President Johnson has said, "We will persevere. There is no limit to our commitment. We are in this fight to stay all the way."

Freedom: the Ultimate Hope

In this great adventure of the Alliance for Progress we wish the Cuban people could join us, for it must be increasingly clear to them that under the present system there are no prospects for an improvement of living conditions or for greater personal freedom. The tragedy is that were it not for the militancy of Castro and those closest to him, Cuban problems would by no means be insoluble. Men of good will in Cuba and, indeed, in the United States and other countries supported the idea of democratic revolution and effective reforms. . . . We are confident that this genuine revolution will live again and that the martyred people of that oppressed island will be free from foreign Communist domination, free to choose their own leaders, and free to join the rest of the peoples of the hemisphere in our common efforts to secure for each person the liberty, dignity, and the well-being which is the rightful heritage of all the citizens of this great hemisphere.

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* *Excerpts from a recent address by Secretary of State Dean Rusk to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, OAS.*

Air Force Upgrades Tyndall AFB ADC Unit To Numbered AF Status

Air Force is upgrading the Air Defense Command interceptor pilot training function at Tyndall AFB, Fla., from a wing that reports to a numbered Air Force (14th) to a "center" that is the administrative equal of an Air Force and reports direct to ADC.

The ADC announcement said that the 4756th Air Defense Wing (Training) would be discontinued Jan. 1 and that the Air Defense Weapons Center organized Oct. 1 would be fully operational by that time and pick up the training function.

"The Air Defense Weapons Center will concentrate on the development of operational and technical concepts, tactics and doctrine to provide optimum air battle management," the announcement explained.

Army-Developed Laser In Use by Coast Guard For Iceberg Research

The U.S. Coast Guard is doing iceberg research in the North Atlantic with a portable laser rangefinder developed by the U.S. Army Electronics Command.

Primary aim of the research, being conducted from the Coast Guard cutter Evergreen, is "to improve the prediction ability of the International Ice Patrol." The studies are turning up new information on iceberg drift and deterioration.

Officials said the Army laser, used by the Coast Guard for the first time this year, has proved highly successful in mapping the changing outline of icebergs as they melt and has significantly improved iceberg mapping capability.

Prior to this year, optical rangefinders and navigational sextants were used to obtain the surface definitions of the floating ice.

MIDWAY DISCUSSION—Capt. Albert S. Yesensky (right), Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station Midway Island, briefs VAdm. Allen M. Shinn (left), Commander, Naval Air Pacific, about the installation's support function in relation to Southeast Asia.

DCAS Expects Increase In FY68 Workload

Defense Contract Administration Services (DCAS) has released figures that indicate an increased workload during fiscal year 1968.

Statistics show a 208 percent increase in production surveillance, a projected 62 percent jump in the dollar value of material inspected and an expected doubling of contracts administered by DCAS.

The percentages are figured against a base of December 1965 when DCAS was assigned all contract administration formerly handled by the military services.

DCAS officials said substantial increases are also being felt in contract compliance, industrial security and contract payment, where invoices received are up about 1,500 from FY 1967's monthly average of 3,500.

Army Offers Reenlistment After 8 Months' Duty

Army personnel may now reenlist after only eight months' active duty, draw reenlistment bonuses and take advantage of the reenlistment school and assignment options.

Previously, a minimum of one year active duty was required before such benefits became available.

Under the new program, persons serving in short tour overseas areas must complete a normal overseas tour. Also, those who reenlist under this program forfeit future entitlement to the variable reenlistment bonus. And those reenlisting for their current duty assignment will be subject to worldwide reassignment at any time.

LBJ Seeks Fourth Star For 7th AF's Gen. Momyer

President Johnson has announced his intention to nominate the Commander, Seventh Air Force in Vietnam, Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer for appointment to the rank of general.

Gen. Momyer will also remain in his position as deputy commander, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, for Air Operations. He was assigned to Vietnam in July 1966.

Navy Plane Makes Long Flight On Antarctic Mercy Mission

A ski-equipped LC-130 Hercules traversed the Antarctic Dec. 5 to evacuate an English physician whose back was broken when he tumbled down a 30-foot ice cliff.

Operation Deep Freeze officials say it may have been the longest rescue mission ever flown over the icy continent.

It began at Navy's McMurdo Sound station on the Ross Sea and crossed 1,500 miles of ice to Britain's Halley Bay station on the edge of the Weddell Sea.

From there the injured doctor was flown 5,600 miles to Christchurch, New Zealand.

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